

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1600

S E C R E T WARSAW 8277

NODIS CHEROKEE, FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP PL (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO POLAND

REF: (A) STATE 272972, (B) WARSAW 8073

1. FOREIGN MINISTER WOJTASZEK RECEIVED ME AT 10:30 A.M., AT HIS REQUEST. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH GIEREK THE U.S. PROPOSAL TO RESCHEDULE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO WARSAW FOR JANUARY 6-7. WOJTASZEK SAID THE LEADERSHIP FELT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RECEIVE THE PRESIDENT ON JANUARY 6, WHICH IS GIEREK'S 65TH BIRTHDAY. THERE WAS AN OBVIOUS INTEREST IN EXPLOITING THAT DATE PUBLICLY, HE SAID, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PARTY CONFERENCE, AND IN AVOIDING A COMPETING EVENT OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. MANY FOREIGN PARTY LEADERS WOULD COME TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION, HE ADDED.

2. THE POLISH SIDE, WOJTASZEK CONTINUED, THEREFORE ASKED THAT THE WARSAW STOP BE SET SLIGHTLY EARLIER, NAMELY ON JANUARY 3 OR 4, AND SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO INTERCHANGE IT WITH ONE OR BOTH OF THE TWO VISITS TO WESTERN EUROPEAN CITIES ON THE PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY. (I HAD EARLIER GIVEN SPASOWSKI THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REF A.)

3. I SAID I WOULD COMMUNICATE THESE POINTS IMMEDIATELY TO

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WASHINGTON.

4. COMMENT: QUITE CONTRARY TO WHAT WOJTASZEK TOLD ME ON NOVEMBER 8 (REF B), GIEREK & CO. NOW APPEAR TO BE UNWILLING TO RESCHEDULE THE PARTY CONFERENCE. FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, THIS IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN SET TO COINCIDE WITH GIEREK'S 65TH BIRTHDAY. ONE CAN

IMAGINE THE KIND OF OCCASION THIS WILL BE. THERE IS LITTLE "CULT OF THE PERSONALITY" IN POLAND, BUT THE CURRENT TENSIONS IN THE COUNTRY (WARSAW 8179) MAKE THIS A GOOD TIME FOR TRIBUTES TO GIEREK, WHICH, DESPITE THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP'S APPARENT LACK OF ANY PROGRAM FOR DEALING WITH THE VARIOUS SERIOUS PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE POLISH ECONOMY, WOULD BE DESIGNED TO CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT, AFTER ALL, THEY HAVE A LEADER WHO CAN BE RELIED ON.

5. I FIND DISTASTEFUL THE PROSPECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S APPEARING IN WARSAW A DAY OR TWO BEFORE THE OCCASION THAT IS OBVIOUSLY BEING PLANNED. THE MEDIA OF THE POLISH REGIME AND THE EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE GRAPEVINE IN THIS COUNTRY (WHICH IS FREQUENTLY USED BY THE PARTY AND SECRET POLICE) WILL CREATE AN IMPRESSION THAT, LIKE THE COMMUNIST LEADERS WHO WILL BEGIN TO ARRIVE ON JANUARY 5, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TOO, IS COMING TO PAY HIS RESPECTS. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OFFSET THIS EFFORT SOMEWHAT BY WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAYS IN HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT, TOAST, AND A POSSIBLE PRESS CONFERENCE. BUT IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW HE COULD FAIL TO SAY SOMETHING NICE PUBLICLY TO, AND ABOUT, GIEREK, IN VIEW OF THE COMING ANNIVERSARY, AND THIS WOULD BE ALL THE LOCAL MEDIA WOULD NEED.

6. I APPRECIATE THE LEEWAY GIVEN ME IN STATE 272041 FOR NEGOTIATION OF THE SCHEDULE. I BELIEVE WE CAN ARRANGE VISITS TO THE GHETTO AND NIKE MONUMENTS, IN ADDITION TO THE PROTOCOLARY WREATH-LAYING AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER. I WILL KEEP PLUGGING  
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ON THE RECEPTION, BUT FEEL SURE THE POLISH AUTHORITIES WILL NOT ACCEPT A RECEPTION, EVEN ONE HOSTED BY THE PRESIDENT, WHICH CONTRAVENES THE PROTOCOL PRACTICED IN WARSAW, I.E., THE RECEPTION MUST BE IN HONOR OF THE HOST, FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK, AND CONSEQUENTLY WOULD HAVE TO INVOLVE AS GUESTS A LARGE NUMBER OF REGIME OFFICIALS AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENT FIGURES. I CAN ENVISAGE THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET AGREEMENT TO A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT ONLY IF IT WERE A JOINT ONE, I.E., WITH THE FIRST SECRETARY SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE PRESIDENT. OF COURSE, THE POLISH AUTHORITIES WOULD INSIST THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE BE CHAIRED BY ONE OF THEIR PEOPLE. A MORE MANAGEABLE ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE A TELEVISED SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT.

7. HOWEVER ALL THIS WORKS OUT, WE CAN BE SURE THAT THE POLISH AUTHORITIES WILL MAINTAIN A VERY CONSIDERABLE MEASURE OF CONTROL.

8. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD TELL THE POLISH AUTHORITIES THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL THINK ABOUT VISITING WARSAW AT A LATER DATE. END COMMENT.  
DAVIES

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NNN

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